

prices. Much against my will, the contracts in this Division were made for two years, but as the Divisional Forest Officer expected thereby to obtain better prices and the Collector insisted so strongly that I was forced to yield. Unfortunately the better prices were not obtained and it is to be feared that further next year's prices will be prejudicially affected.

The increased expenditure includes about Rs. 5,000 for payment of share to contractors for the removal of wood from the Dángs on share system, Rs. 2,000 extra on account of forest survey, Rs. 3,000 on account of land compensation for purchase of land in Tháná, Rs. 2,000 on account of Working Plans and Rs. 2,000 on account of fire conservancy.

75. In the following statement the financial results of the Northern Circle for the past 10 years are given :—

Year.	Receipts.	EXPENDITURE.			Net Revenue.
		A.	B.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1886-87	4,43,157	89,724	1,44,507	2,34,231	2,08,926
1887-88	4,73,104	85,645	1,45,407	2,31,052	2,42,052
1888-89	5,78,425	88,924	1,47,364	2,36,288	3,42,137
1889-90	5,96,066	93,419	1,45,341	2,38,760	3,57,306
1890-91	6,37,408	1,04,809	1,39,880	2,44,689	3,92,719
1891-92	6,14,270	93,399	1,30,089	2,23,488	3,90,782
1892-93	6,82,884	1,38,639	1,96,486	3,35,125	3,47,759
1893-94	7,60,953	98,047	1,66,899	2,64,946	4,96,007
1894-95	7,38,680	96,961	1,78,971	2,75,932	4,62,748
1895-96	7,83,283	1,08,221	1,89,216	2,97,437	4,85,746
1896-97	5,83,437	1,26,022	1,93,859	3,19,881	2,63,556

CHAPTER V.

FOREST ADMINISTRATION.

ESTABLISHMENT.

76. The Tháná District, which contained only two Divisions up to 31st December 1896, was split up and formed into 3 Divisions from the 1st of January 1897. They are North Tháná, Central Tháná, and South Tháná. This important change has been made with a view to better supervision over the working of the coupes. The Divisional Forest Officers now find more time to devote to some most important duties which have necessarily been hitherto either not at all or inefficiently performed, especially as regards the collection and record of data of yield and reservation, areas burnt, &c. These data, so important for control of the Working Plans and so necessary for the drawing up of permanent ones when the present preliminary Working Plans shall terminate, are even now after ten years of working practically unrecorded.

With this change in Divisions a Sub-Division Officer was moved to the Panch Maháls, where his services were urgently required for marking coupes in the Godhrá Range. Thus in this Circle now every Divisional Forest Officer has been provided with the assistance of a Sub-Division Officer.

77. In addition to this increase in the administrative strength, however, a large increase in the executive strength is called for. Such increase for the Surat District proper has been already sanctioned. For the leased forests of the Dángs, however, nothing can be done until the settlement has been placed on a satisfactory footing. This has been delayed by the demands on the officers of all departments in connection with plague and famine, but it is hoped will soon be taken in hand. In forwarding the divisional report the Political Agent writes :—

"The two most pressing forest matters in the Dáangs at present are, I think, the strengthening of the staff and the enquiring into and deciding on the alterations which the Rájás wish to have made here and there in the boundaries of the reserved forests. And these two things should, I think, be pressed on Government."

and I cordially agree. The Dáng forests are deteriorating and nothing can save them, but a final settlement, opening of communications, a resident magisterial officer, and a very largely increased forest protective establishment.

78. For the Panch Maháls proposals* for an increased lower protective establishment have been provisionally accepted by Government and similar proposals for the Tháná Divisions are under consideration, but Government have decided to reserve action pending the receipt of proposals for the reorganization of the Range Forest Officers and office establishments. These proposals will be before Government as soon as this report, and an early settlement is hoped for.

79. It should be recorded under this chapter that the Forest Department in Tháná were called on to supply grass to the famine districts of the Dekhan. A system of retail purchase of grass at all the railway stations was organized, and this grass was subsequently pressed, loaded into railway wagons and exported. An Extra Assistant Conservator was employed whole time on supervising this work. A large departmental collection of grass amounting to 50 lakhs of lbs. was also made in the Táná reserve, carted to the Railway station and thence exported. On this work another Extra Assistant was employed whole time from 1st January to the end of the season, and for the last two months Mr. Ryan, Divisional Forest Officer, South Tháná, was also occupied in pushing through the pressing and despatch before the break of the rains. The whole was carried out under the administration of the Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth on special duty. Detailed results will have been reported to Government elsewhere and need not be given here.

80. The administration was conducted by me throughout the year.

The divisional charges were held as under:—

No.	Division.	Name of Officer.	Rank.	PERIOD.	
				From	To
	East Tháná ...	R. C. Wroughton...	Conservator of Forests, N. C. ...	1st July 1896 ...	16th July 1896.
		T. R. D. Bell ...	Deputy Conservator, 2nd Grade ...	17th do. ...	2nd August 1896.
	South Tháná ...	A. G. Edie ...	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade ...	3rd August 1896 ...	21st Dec. 1896.
		J. Dodgson ...	Do. do. ...	22nd Dec. 1896.	8th January 1897.
		G. M. Ryan ...	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade ...	9th January 1897.	30th June 1897.
	West Tháná ...	C. M. Hodgson ...	Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade ...	1st July 1896 ...	2nd August 1896.
	North Tháná ...	T. R. D. Bell ...	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade ...	3rd August 1896.	12th Nov. 1896.
		J. Dodgson ...	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade ...	13th Nov. 1896 ...	21st Dec. 1896.
		A. G. Edie... ...	Do. do. ...	22nd Dec. 1896...	30th June 1897.
	Central Tháná ...	J. Dodgson ...	Do. do. ...	1st January 1897.	Do.
	Surat ...	A. Stewart... ...	Deputy Conservator, 3rd Grade ...	1st July 1896 ...	22nd June 1897.
		C. G. Dália ...	Extra Assistant, 3rd Grade ...	22nd June 1897 ...	30th June 1897.
	Panch Maháls ...	W. A. Wallinger ...	Do. 1st Grade... ...	1st July 1896 ...	Do.
	Working Plans ...	J. Dodgson ...	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade ...	Do. ...	12th Nov. 1896.
		T. R. D. Bell ...	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade ...	13th Nov. 1896 ...	21st Dec. 1896.
		R. C. Wroughton ...	Conservator of Forests, N. C. ...	22nd Dec. 1896...	25th Jan. 1897.
		G. P. Millett ...	Deputy Conservator, 3rd Grade ...	26th Jan. 1897 ...	30th June 1897.

Sub-Divisional charges were held as under:—

No.	Division.	Name of Officer.	Rank.	Sub-Division.	PERIOD.	
					From	To
1	East Tháná ...	A. N. Máster ...	Extra Assistant Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Sháhápúr ...	1st July 1896 ...	21st Dec. 1896.
		K. B. Phadke ...	Do. do. ...	Kalyán ...	Do. ...	Do.
	South Tháná...	K. B. Phadke ...	Do. do. ...	South Tháná.	22nd Dec. 1896.	30th June 1897.
2	West Tháná ...	V. D. P. Ribeiro ...	Do. do. ...	Bassein ...	1st July 1896 ...	9th Jan. 1897.
		S. B. Ránade ...	Do. 4th Grade.	Dáhnú ...	Do. ...	3rd Jan. 1897.
	North Tháná ...	D. M. Bijur ...	Do. 3rd do.	North Tháná	4th Jan. 1897 ...	30th June 1897.
	Central Tháná.	A. N. Master ...	Do. do. ...	Central Tháná.	22nd Dec. 1896.	Do.
	Surat ...	C. G. Dália ...	Do. 4th Grade.	Surat ...	1st July 1896 ...	Do.
	Panch Maháls.	S. B. Ránade ...	Do. do. ...	Panch Maháls.	13th Jan. 1897.	Do.